

REMARKS

In the Office action, claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Sprenger et al.; claims 2-5, 7-12, 19-21, 24 and 28-31 were rejected as unpatentable over Sprenger et al. in view of Yamagishi et al., claims 14-18 were allowed and claims 6, 13, 22-23 and 25-27 were indicated as being allowable in independent form.

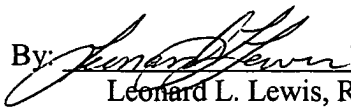
Claim 1 as amended recites in part 'an inlet hub that is connected to said housing and that supports said tube inlet end, and an outlet hub that is connected to said housing and that supports said tube outlet end' and 'an air outlet in said outlet hub that is in fluid communication with a suction device'. The art of record does not teach nor render obvious such an arrangement. Sprenger does mention hubs as sealing the ends of the tube to the housing (col. 6, lines 40-43) thus providing a tube interior that is isolated from an interior chamber of the housing. This would clearly teach away from a hub that provides an air outlet to the tube for suction.

Although claim 6 was indicated as allowable, claim 6 has been amended to better define the claimed invention of claim 6. The claim continues to recite the moveable stop member, but without limitation to connection to the end wall, and is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as stated in the Office action. Claim 7 as amended recites a heater adjacent an air inlet to the enclosed space. Sprenger does not teach such a heater nor does Yamagishi. Allowed claim 14 has been amended to more clearly define the invention of claim 14 without limitation to the stop member being connected to an end wall. It is respectfully submitted that claim 14 as amended remains in allowed condition for similar reasons as stated in the Office action. Claim 24 has been amended to recite the stop member and is therefore allowable for similar reasons as stated in the Office action as to claim 14. New dependent claims 52-57 do not add new matter, are fully supported by the specification and drawings as filed, and are submitted to further define the claimed inventions.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in proper condition for allowance and a favorable notice of the same is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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